

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An immortal ~~immortalized~~ avian cell line comprising a ~~combination of viral genes,~~
 - (i) ~~at least one a~~ first viral gene affecting the function of the retinoblastoma protein and at least one second viral gene affecting the p53 protein or a family member thereof, wherein the first viral gene is an which is a Mastadenovirus early region 1A (E1A) gene ~~from mastadenoviruses;~~ and
 - (ii) ~~wherein the a~~ second viral gene ~~codes for an~~ which codes for a Mastadenovirus early region 1B 55K (E1B 55K) protein, ~~from mastadenoviruses.~~
wherein said first and second viral genes are expressed in said cell line.
2. (Original) The avian cell line of claim 1, wherein the first gene overcomes G1 checkpoint control and the second gene prevents apoptosis induced by the first gene.
3. (Previously Presented) The avian cell line of claim 1, wherein
 - (i) the cell line is obtained from at least one of the group consisting of embryonic chicken, hatched chicken, duck, goose or quail,
 - (ii) the cells subjected to immortalization are selected from at least one of the group consisting of primary cells from isolated body segments or separated individual organs; or
 - (iii) the genes are introduced to the cells by non-viral transfection.
4. (Previously Presented) The avian cell line of claim 1,
wherein the E1A first viral gene and E1B second viral gene is obtained from adenovirus 5,
wherein said E1A gene has the sequence of bp 1193 to 2309 of SEQ ID NO: 7 or the sequence complementary to bp 4230 to 3113 of SEQ ID NO: 9, and
wherein said E1B gene has the sequence of bp 1145 to 3007 of SEQ ID NO: 8 or the sequence complementary to bp 2345 to 550 of SEQ ID NO: 9.
5. (Previously Presented) The avian cell line of claim 1, further comprising

- non-natural functional sequences comprising transgenes, promoters, enhancers or selection markers.
6. (Previously Presented) The avian cell line of claim 1, wherein the cell line
 - (i) is free of reverse transcriptase activity;
 - (ii) is derived from immortalization of a primary cell originating from duck embryos or hatched ducks;
 - (iii) is derived from extraembryonic membrane; or
 - (iv) is cultivated in a chemically defined medium which is preferably free of animal serum.
 7. (Previously Presented) The avian cell line of claim 1, which is avian cell line 12A07-A10 (DSM ACC2695).
 8. (Withdrawn) A method for preparing a cell line of claim 1, comprising transforming or transfecting a starting cell with the first and second gene.
 9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8 comprising non-viral transfection of the starting cell.
 10. (Withdrawn) A method for producing viruses or biological recombinant proteins, comprising,
 - a) providing to the cells of the cell line of Claim 1 a virus, or a gene coding for a recombinant protein operably linked to a promoter;
 - b) incubating the cells; and
 - b) harvesting the virus progeny or the recombinant proteins from the cells.
 11. (Canceled)
 12. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 10 wherein the cells are contacted by a pox virus, or pox virus strain MVA, and wherein the cell line is a duck cell line originating from duck somites, duck neuronal tissue or duck retina.

13. (Canceled)
14. (Previously Presented) The avian cell line of claim 1, wherein the first gene and second gene are separated spatially by heterologous sequences or are located on different nucleic acid segments or plasmids.
15. (Previously Presented) The avian cell line of claim 1, which is suitable for production of biologicals or viruses including vaccine strains and recombinant viral vectors.